

September 13, 1963

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Dear Jim:

I have at least started to write to you more than once over the past few months, but cannot definitely remember whether I mailed it off. The gist is, in answer to your question, and I am glad you reinforced it through Walter (or I wouldn't have taken it so seriously) -- when could you come? No worry about your welcome; I can manage the mechanics better with more notice; but ~~anyhoo~~ next Spring would suit fine! Any possibility by the first of the year?

In any case, whether for a short visit or longer, could you fit in a trip during the interval? There are a lot of questions about differential fertility I'd like to talk over with you. By the way, do you happen to know anything on birth rank (of the parent) as a factor? (One should at minimum see the effect of "heritable" fertility, viz. a parent of rank 10 must represent a fertile lineage; even when this is extracted I would expect an interesting residue.) And do you trust the frequent assertions that socio-economic and educational differentials in fertility in the U.S. have decreased from 1940-50-60: or is the fallacy based on a bad metric (mean deviation instead of variance)?

And I would also like to show you what we are doing in "real time" computation and display of statistical material. Our own "little" LINC (a personal access machine with 1000 + 1000 words of fast access memory (8 μ sec. arithmetic), a very satisfactory pair of magnetic tape units, and unusual display and analog I/O facilities) is especially entertaining. By the time you're here, maybe we'll have its wire connection to the 7090 working too.

I'm beginning to realize that five years at Stanford are just coming up. Depressing thought! Do come out and help cheer me up.

As ever,

Joshua Lederberg
Professor of Genetics

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